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School Committee Minutes 03/09/2004

THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2004
7:30 PM

Present: Suzanne Owayda, Chair
Paul Schlichtman, Vice Chair
Joani LaMachia, Secretary
Barbara Goodman
Sue Sheffler
Martin Thrope

Superintendent Kay Donovan
CFO Rob Addelson
Asst. Supt. Joanne Gurry
Special Education Director Marilyn Bisbicos (@8:00 pm)

Absent: Jeff Thielman

Call to Order: 7:35 pm

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Virginia Fuller AEA President presented the Supt. and School Committee a petition signed by 95% of the AEA showing that Arlington teachers are united and confident in their support for their negotiating team. Mrs. Fuller stated that Supt. Donovan violated MGL Chapter 150E and that the AEA is filing a prohibitive practice charge with the Massachusetts Labor Relations Commission because Supt. Donovan sent a memo to all AEA members with a copy of the School Committee's contract proposal.

Robert Hart Bishop school parent spoke relative to concerns on school redistricting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Ms. LaMachia reviewed correspondence.

On a motion by Ms. LaMachia, seconded by Mr. Thrope it was unanimously
Voted to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 27, 2004.

On a motion by Ms. LaMachia, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman it was
Voted to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 10, 2004

On a motion by Ms. LaMachia, seconded by Schlichtman it was
Voted to approve the executive session meeting minutes of January 27, 2004
Mr. Schlichtman clarified the approval and release of executive sessions minutes explaining that the minutes become a public record when there is no longer a legal reason to keep them private.

BUDGET

Report of Finance Committee

Supt. Donovan stated that the school budget was presented and key issues explained to the Finance Committee the previous evening. CFO Rob Addelson reported that questions from the finance committee include:

- .. Changes in the number of FTE positions
 - .. Differences in per pupil expenditures between Arlington and Belmont
 - .. How much NCLB money has to be funded at the local level
 - .. What other fields will be used during the Peirce Field reconstruction
 - .. How much money would be saved with the reduction in health insurance
- Mr. Addelson will forward the answers to the Finance Committee.

Warrant Approvals

Mr. Addelson requested approval on the following warrants:

On a motion by Mr. Schlichtman seconded by Ms. Sheffler it was unanimously

Voted to approve warrant number 04105 in the amount of \$401,086.35 and warrant number 04111 in the amount of \$508,995.20

PTBC REPORT

SBAB Update

Supt. Donovan reviewed the **School Facilities Work Group** booklet on **SBAB Talking Points** discussed at the last MASS meeting. The booklet states that "Municipalities and school districts and their private-sector partners in building and maintaining school facilities support 11 changes to the SBA program to reduce costs for both state and local government and improve the quality and durability of school buildings". Included in the changes are the financing School Building Construction and Maintenance Projects and Reducing the Cost of construction and Maintenance.

Dallin School

Supt. Donovan reported that the PTBC voted to go out to bid on the Dallin School even though there has been no decision on the Governor's proposal on the elimination of the sub-file bid law. Members of the PTBC believed that bids are coming in lower than anticipated in other districts and that the removal of the bid is not guaranteed. The Superintendent noted that the PTBC is still looking at a two year window though the school may not be torn down until late fall.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy & Procedures/Vote policies ADC, BGC, JJIC

On a motion by Ms. Owayda seconded by Mr. Schlichtman it was unanimously
Voted to approve Policy ADC: Smoking on School Premises

On a motion by Ms. Owayda seconded by Mr. Schlichtman and amended by Ms. LaMachia it was unanimously
Voted to approve the amended Policy BGC: Policy Revision and Review

On a motion by Ms. Owayda, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman it was unanimously
Voted to approve Policy JJIC: School Logos and Trademarks

Redistricting Advisory Team

Ms. Sheffler reported that the advisory team met this morning. It was reconfirmed that this is a 7 school town wide process; that everything proposed comes back to the school committee and the superintendent. The Assist. Supt of Needham gave a presentation of how the redistricting process worked in Needham and emphasized that the committee focus on the end objective: the educational policy. Steve Mazzola will develop a web link off the school site that will contain minutes, maps, and the charge of the committee the site should be ready within the next few weeks. Ms. Sheffler acknowledged that there will be a number of policy issues to be addressed during the process.

There will be a forum at the Bishop School on Wednesday, March 10th and Thursday, March 11th on redistricting.

Superintendent Ad Hoc Committee

Suzanne Owayda reported that at the meeting of March 6th the committee discussed a timeline development, reviewed an old job description, discussed the use of a consultant and what community members/groups should be involved in the process. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 20th, place to be determined, possibly the community safety building. Ms. Goodman and Mr. Thrope suggested input from community focus groups on the job description and to push the consultant up. Ms. Owayda agreed that the subcommittee would rework the timeline and bring it to the full committee at the next meeting.

DECLARATION FOR INTENT OF OFFICE

Ms. Owayda, referencing policy BDAA Election of School Committee Officers announced that Paul Schlichtman has declared his intent to serve as chair and Jeff Thielman declared his intent to serve as vice chair. The office of secretary is still open.

VOTES ON UPCOMING MEETINGS

Public Hearing on School Budget

On a motion by Ms. Sheffler seconded by Ms. Goodman it was unanimously
Voted to start the regular meeting of March 23rd at 8:00 for the purpose of a Public Hearing on the FY05 School Budget.

Organizational Meeting

On a motion by Ms. Sheffler seconded by Ms. Goodman it was unanimously
Voted to schedule the School Committee Organizational meeting for Tuesday, April 13th 2004 at 7:00 pm.

New Business

Dr. Gurry presented to the Committee for approval a proposal for a two week summer algebra course. The program would run for two –two week sessions from 8:30 – 11:30 am; the purpose of the course is to develop more confidence and for enrichment. Tuition would be \$150.00 for the two weeks. If enrollments are low, the program would be advertised in other districts. Mr. Schlichtman requested a copy of the curriculum for the course.

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Ms. Goodman it was unanimously
Voted to approve the summer algebra course only with the understanding that the program break even or better.

On a motion by Mr. Schlichtman seconded by Ms. Sheffler it was
Voted to enter executive session for the purpose of negotiations with no further business to be conducted upon returning to open session except to adjourn. RC: Unanimous

EXECUTIVE SESSION 9:00 – 9:30 PM

*On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Mr. Schlichtman it was unanimously
Voted to adjourn @ 9:30 pm.*